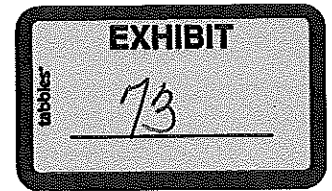


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January 22, 2010

BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

JAN 26 2010

Mr. Paul E. Stacey, Supervising Environmental Analyst
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Planning and Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Support for Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations

Dear Mr. Stacey:

As a Newtown resident and member of the Candlewood Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, I am writing today to express my support for the Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations.

There is plenty of water to go around and these regulations will help lead the way to improved water management in the state.

That the proposed regulations will apply to all rivers in Connecticut is a major step in protecting the health of our rivers and streams and recognize that water releases must be made to more closely match these naturally occurring cycles.

Since the majority of us depend on groundwater for drinking and other uses, it is important to ensure that groundwater withdrawals do not result in flow reductions in nearby streams, or even worse, the complete drying out of a streambed, which has been known to happen.

The proposals should be strengthened when it comes to urban rivers which will likely be designated as Class 4 rivers. This designation will strip virtually all of the stream flow protections from such rivers and severely limit any chance that such streams can remain viable habitat for trout and their food and as an effective recreational resource. Therefore I encourage you to put in place minimum standards, or at least a sliding scale, within the Class 4 designation that would ensure the river's health and level of aquatic life.

In closing, the Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations represent an important step in ensuring an abundant supply of water for human use while protecting the ecological needs and recreational enjoyment of Connecticut's rivers and streams.

I ask you to carefully consider and support these proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Peterson", written over the word "Sincerely,".

cc (via e-mail): Adam Taylor, President, Candlewood Valley Chapter - TU